

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a liquid-retentive absorbing layer, a liquid-impermeable leakproof layer, and standing gathers on 2 each side thereof of said article which have an upright portion and an elastically extensible portion coming into planar contact with ~~the~~ a wearer's skin while worn, 4 said elastically extensible portion being substantially parallel to said absorbing layer and said upright portion extending between one of said absorbing layer and 6 a portion near a longer side edge of said absorbing layer and said elastically extensible portion before being worn, wherein said elastically extensible portion is 8 made of a sheet and at least one elastic member, said elastic member being fixed to said sheet discretely in the longitudinal direction thereof in ~~their~~ its stretched 10 state, and the parts of said sheet where said elastic member is not fixed are raised by contraction of said elastic member to form a plurality of hollow ridges parallel 12 to each other on the a side of said elastically extensible portion to be brought into contact with the wearer's skin in a linear manner along the contraction direction 14 of said elastic member, said hollow ridges each extending across the contraction direction of said elastic member [[.]]; wherein said absorbent article is substantially 16 oblong, said standing gathers are provided along the respective longer sides of said 18 absorbent article, and said plurality of ridges are a large number of ridges formed across the width of said elastically extensible portion.

Claim 2 is cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein ~~said standing gathers on each side are composed of said elastically extensible portion and an upright portion, and said upright portion connects the a middle region in the a width direction of said elastically extensible portion.~~ 2

A7 4. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a substantially oblong shape and comprising a liquid-retentive absorbing layer, a liquid-impermeable leakproof sheet, and standing gathers which are provided on each longer side thereof of said article and have an upright portion and an elastically extensible portion coming into planar contact with ~~the~~ a wearer's skin while worn, said elastically extensible portion being substantially parallel to said absorbing layer and said upright portion extending between one of said absorbing layer and a portion near a longer side edge of said absorbing layer and said elastically extensible portion before being worn, wherein said elastically extensible portion is made of a fiber aggregate containing at least one elastic member and has a large number of ridges formed on its side to be brought into contact with the wearer's skin across the width thereof, said fiber aggregate forming said ridges having a lower density than ~~that~~ fiber aggregate forming valleys between every adjacent ridges; wherein said fiber aggregate containing at least one elastic member is composed of two fiber aggregate layers and said at least one elastic member, and 2 4 6 10 12 14

both of said two fiber aggregate layers protrude toward the wearer's skin when worn.

Claim 5 is cancelled.

A7 6. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein said fiber aggregate containing at least one elastic member is composed of two fiber aggregate layers and at least one elastic member interposed between said two fiber aggregate layers, and said fiber aggregate has compressed parts and non-compressed parts or weakly compressed parts that have been compressed under a weaker pressure than imposed to form said compressed parts, ~~alternately,~~ said compressed parts and said non-compressed part or weakly compressed parts alternating, said non-compressed parts or weakly compressed parts corresponding to said ridges.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 6, wherein said two fiber aggregate layers are thermally fused together in said compressed parts.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein the line connecting the apices of said ridges is wavy in a longitudinal section of said elastically extensible portion.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein ~~said standing gathers on each side are composed of said elastically~~

A7 ~~extensible portion and an upright portion, and said upright portion connects to~~
the a middle region in the a width direction of said elastically extensible portion. 4

10. (New) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent article is fixed to underwear in use.

AS 11. (New) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein said absorbent article is fixed to underwear in use.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are three (3) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes: use of Roman numerals for cross-section lines and correction of reference numerals.

Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.